UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.1/50/5
7 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda item 81

MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Letter dated 30 October 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the "declaration for a better future" and the joint communiqué adopted at an international conference of socialist parties' municipal committees, held in Belgrade from 22 to 24 September 1995.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 81.

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Annex I

DECLARATION FROM BELGRADE FOR A BETTER FUTURE

At the initiative of the Municipal Board of the Socialist Party of Serbia of Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia hosted the International Conference „For a Better Future" attended by representatives of municipal organizations of socialist and social-democratic parties from the capitals of the Balkan states, which was held from September 22–24, 1995. The Conference was attended by the representatives of Athens – the Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement PASOK, Sofia – the Bulgarian Socialist Party, Bucharest – the Social Democracy Party of Romania, and Podgorica – the Democratic Party of Socialists of Montenegro.

The participants in the Conference considered in detail all the aspects and problems of life in big cities, as well as the courses of action and activities of the left-oriented socialist and progressive parties in urban environments. A rather elaborate discussion was held concerning the issues of local self-management, public services and municipal administration, economic development and structure of the economy in the Balkan metropolis, housing-utilities problems, unemployment and social problems, crime and security of citizens, education and problems regarding the young, information and ecological problems, as well as the issue of international cooperation of the capitals of the Balkan countries. A detailed discussion was also held concerning the issue of the place and role of municipal organizations of the socialist and social-democratic parties in the citizens everyday life in the capitals of the Balkan countries, as well as regarding the issue of election activities of these parties in big cities and the issue of significance of municipal organizations in the capitals within the framework of the party structure.

It has been concluded that cities represent places of concentration of many problems of everyday life, and that left-oriented political forces must face the task of settling these issues in a responsible way, primarily through the implementation of socialist political principles in the everyday life of big cities, namely, equality, democracy, solidarity and social justice.

The socialists must do all they can to provide active and concrete contents to the concept of citizenship and to provide the best possible quality of life for all citizens. It has been pointed out that cities represent specific forms of expression of collective identity and political representation. Life in the cities, in itself, represents a possibility of developing the most direct forms of democracy, as well as the broadest possible participation of all citizens in managing affairs of public interest and in strengthening the collective identity. Each politics, in addition to its international and national dimensions, also has its local dimension, which is expressed through local self-management and civil participation.

It has been emphasized that all the people who live in the city are equal and that they must have equal political and social rights. Cities do not belong only to the richest. They are the expression of identity of all their citizens to whom they must offer hope of a better future, more active life, a better standard and better jobs.

It has been pointed out that the so called crisis of civic administrations and institutions can be overcome through multidimensional possibilities offered by the establishing of direct and immediate relations between the voters and the representatives they have chosen.

It has been underlined that citizens cannot be active and responsible in all the forms of civil participation in they have not been adequately informed and if there are no possibilities for them to be informed and react to it. The socialists advocate the development of all forms of communications in the cities, from traditional ones, such as cultural centers in different parts of the city, to the development of local radios and televisions.

There can be no economic progress, no ecological safety, no security in the cities, no social solidarity, no cultural tolerance without the citizens cooperating with local authorities. The socialists have always supported the development of local autonomy, which has always been a factor of broader integrations.

It is necessary to implement the models of economic development in the cities which will provide the most rational utilisation of resources and enable the settling of the most burning social issues. The socialists cannot accept dividing of the cities into exclusive centers and poor peripheries, nor such cities which will divide their citizens according to distorted social and functional criteria. Each part of the city has to have its monument, its symbol and identity. However, a democratic and social city also implies the possibility of using adequate traffic means for its citizens. Existence of such a system of mass transportation is often the prerequisite for solving employment problems and problems related to housing and utilities.

Unemployment and survival in anonimity are obstacles to exercising civil rights. Cities must promote economic growth, cooperation and complementarity of public and private enterprizes and to create the conditions for solving the problem of unemployment.

Public services, urban ecology and maintenance of the infrastructure and equipment may be of great significance in solving the problem of unemployment along with traditional public works.

The right to an apartment is the fundamental right of each citizen. Public authorities are often unable to offer appropriate apartments to all their citizens, but the citizens must be recognized the right to solve such problems in a humane way, as well as to establish a mechanism of cooperation in improving the method of solving housing-utilities problems and providing the basic urban services to all citizens.

Education and health services must be available and free of charge for all the inhabitants of the cities. Poverty and crime in the economic sector are factors of instability and insecurity. The absence of tolerance stirs up insecurity and makes exercising civil rights impossible. A safe city is only that which struggles against poverty and intolerance, in which solidarity is present every day and which encourages communication among its citizens. Such a city requires an efficient legal system and an honest civil administration. In that respect, socialists have special tasks and responsibilities.

It has been pointed out that local authorities have to invest their maximal efforts to provide for the respect and preservation of the monuments of culture as part of the overall historical and cultural heritage of the Balkans.

Cooperation among cities on the international plane is one of the most important factors of democratization of international relations. The socialists of the Balkans promote the development of such an international cooperation and the creation of associations of cities of the Balkan countries.

The socialists of the Balkans consider that a better mutual acquaintance and association of the Balkan cities, implies, primarily, the broadest possible forms of multifarious cooperation in the field of health services, culture, sports and all other forms of everyday life and work in the cities.

The participants in the Belgrade Conference „For a Better Future" propose that an intercity solidarity fund be established with the purpose of being used in emergency situations

Participants in the Belgrade Conference for a better future propose that similar conferences be held each year in the capitals of the Balkan countries, as a tradition, with the aim of exchanging views, acquainting oneself with current problems and developing cooperation. That is the only way of ensuring a better future for all the citizens of the Balkans.

Annex II

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Gathered in the capital of Yugoslavia – Belgrade, at the International Conference „For a Better Future" held from September 22 to 24, 1995, the representatives of municipal organizations of socialist and social-democratic parties in the capitals of the Balkan states. Have pointed out that the Balkan region represents an extremely important and indivisible part of Europe, and that there can be no peace, stability, development and cooperation in Europe without stability, peace, and joint development and cooperation in the Balkans.

They have emphasized that providing a better future for all the peoples and states in the Balkans and a positive development in this region implies the mobilization of human potentials and natural resources with the aim of achieving prosperity of all the Balkan states and a more prosperous and happier life for all the Balkan peoples.

They have underscored that these goals require the strengthening of mutual trust and good neighbourly relations among the Balkan countries and peoples, the settling of all disputes through negotiations and an overall promotion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the Balkans.

They consider that the future of the Balkans, as an integral and natural part of Europe, can and must be built on the basis of interdependence of political, economic, cultural, security-related and all other interests of the Balkan peoples and countries, peaceful coexistence, solidarity and equality in international relations.

They have pointed out that the future of the Balkans cannot be built on the basis of violence, nationalism, militarism, foreign influences and global games of big powers.

They have stated that peace is the only alternative, and that the most recent developments in the area of the former Yugoslavia have confirmed, in the most dramatic way, that we are at the crossroads between war and peace.

They emphasize that the bloody vicious circle must be stopped immediately, because there is nothing that can justify the continuation of the war, which has already inflicted heavy casualities and material destruction, threatening to spread all over the region and Europe at the same time.

They have reminded that the crisis in the area of the former Yugoslavia and its escalation have stopped the positive trends in the regional political and economic cooperation in the Balkans.

They have pointed to the fact that reaching peaceful and just solution to the crisis in the territory of the former Yugoslavia represents an important prerequisite for a renewed establishment of the natural regional balance and transformation of the Balkans into a zone of peace, stability, prospecity and cooperation.

They have pointed out that the Yugoslav crisis can be settled and stability brought back to the region of the Balkans primarily through an objective, unbiased and principled approach on the part of all the significant European and world factors.

They have emphasized that an impartial role of the United Nations Organization is one of the most important factors of progress in the process of establishing peace in the area of the former Yugoslavia and pacification of the Balkan „powder keg".

They have underlined that any use of force or threatening with force, any attempts to settle the war in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina by military means and foreign military intervention represent the most serious hindrance and obstacle to the peace process and stabilization in the Balkans.

They have pointed out that the sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are the basic factor limiting the peace process, joint economic development and cooperation in the Balkans, and that the further maintenance of the sanctions only delays a peaceful settlement of the Yugoslav crisis and pacification of the whole region.

They have pointed to the destructive economic, social, cultural and other consequences produced by the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which have affected all the Balkan states very severly, their purpose being to serve for different kinds of arbitration by extraregional factors in the Balkans.

They have emphasized that an urgent stopping of all the hostilities, signing of an agreement on permanent ceaso-fire and a peaceful solution to the crisis in the region of the former Yugoslavia offer new possibilities for a future multifarious political, economic and other kinds of cooperation among the Balkan countries, representing a contribution to the creation of a new basis for European integration.

They have warned of the difficult humanitarian situation the refugees have been suffering in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which is still under the sanctions of the UN, and they have particularly pointed to the humanitarian catastrophe of the refugees from the Republic of Serbian Krajina and now from Western Bosnia after the launching of the current Moslem-Croat offensive.

They have expressed their discontent with the existence of double standards on the part of the International Community regarding the suffering people, a fact inadmissible for the contemporary world.

They have called on all the international humanitarian institutions to urgently join the endeavour to solve the basic existential problems of all the refugees in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, without giving priority to any nation.

In this regard, they have welcomed the agreement reached under the auspices of the International community in Geneva on September 8, this year.

They have passed the resolution that the immediate task of all the Balkan states is to invest their maximum efforts to provide for the soonest possible settlement of the crisis in the area of the former Yugoslavia by peaceful means and negotiations along with an evenhanded and equal treatment of all the parties in the conflict, and lifting of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its full integration in all the European and world forums.

In the year of celebration of the 50th anniversary of the victory over fascism, the representatives of the municipal organizations of the socialist and social-democratic parties of all the capitals of the Balkan states, gathered in Belgrade at the Conference „For a Better Future", have pointed to the necessity of all of us joining our efforts with the aim of establishing peace in our part of the world and turning the Balkans into a peaceful apartment of our common European home.